

72  
A  
LETTER

TO A

Member of Parliament.

CONTAINING

OBSERVATIONS

On a PAMPHLET, Intituled,

CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

CASE

OF THE

BAKERS in DUBLIN.

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By a BAKER. K

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*Thou shalt not muzzle the Ox when he treadeth  
out the Corn. Deut. xxv. 4.*

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The SECOND EDITION.

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DUBLIN:

Printed by S. POWELL, in Crane-Lane, 1753.

LETTER

Minister of Parliament

RESERVATIONS



CASE

BAKERS & BURNIN

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A  
LETTER  
TO A  
MEMBER  
OF  
PARLIAMENT.

S I R,

**A**LTHO' any thing that may be said  
or writ in favour of the Bakers of this  
City will not be heard or read impar-  
tially by some Persons who have publicly a-  
vowed, and who have been long accustomed to  
unfavourable Opinions concerning them, yet  
I have not the least Doubt of a patient and  
candid Perusal of the following Sheets by you,

whose Integrity and Disinterestedness are so well known ; having upon all Occasions shewn yourself firmly attached to Truth and Justice. If you find the following Observations to be founded upon undubitable Facts, and that the Bakers are really Sufferers under their present Circumstances, I assure myself of your ready Concurrence to redress their Grievances ; and for my present Opinion, altho' it be founded upon experimental Sufferings, I shall wait for the Determination of that wise and august Body, the Legislature, that thence I may conclude whether it be right or wrong ; as it would be Injustice to take up more of your Time than is absolutely necessary, I shall therefore without further Preface proceed.

Whilst the Bill for *Regulating the Baking Trade* last Sessions was depending, a Pamphlet was published, intituled, *Considerations on the Case of the Bakers in Dublin, by a Citizen*. When I determined to write to you about those Matters I found a second Edition of that Work with Additions, and as it seemed to have been read by, and to have much Weight with many of the Members of the Honourable House of Commons, you will therefore give me Leave to trouble you with a few Observations upon it.

The Author has taken great Pains to prove that the Bakers have *large Gains* on the White and Wheaten Bread Trade, and indeed we ever  
acknow-



acknowledged that we had no Reason to complain of the Profit of that Branch of Trade, but it is the small Demand that there is in that Way, and in consequence the Insignificance of it to us that we complain of: The Bakers however have been very unlucky in the Manner they proceeded on to describe this \*, which was by saying, *that there were 10,000 Loaves of Household Bread made in this City for one of White and Wheaten*; great Advantage has been on every Occasion taken of this Assertion to discredit the Bakers, because of the Improbability of it, and the Gentleman, our Author, has not forgot to observe upon it, altho' the Bakers meant no more by this high Expression than to shew, that that Part of their Trade was of little or no Importance to them. The Fact is thus, the Number of Bakers in this City and the adjacent Liberties is about 130, and there are but 14 of them that do any thing considerable in the White and Wheaten Trade, so that to the remaining Number of about 116 this valuable Branch of Trade is of no Importance, because they make but little or none of it. If it should be asked why they do not make *White and Wheaten*, the Reason is because they could not sell the Bread; for whilst there was an *Household* Loaf to be had the People would not buy any of the finer Sorts, and there will always be Bakers found to oblige the

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\* In the several States of their Case heretofore published

the Town with *Household* Bread, in order to create to themselves a large Demand; for a Baker having a large Trade is thereby enabled to make a Saving out of the Labour of the Trade, besides there is also something to be saved in Furze, for his Oven not having time to grow cool takes the less Furze every Batch to heat it; these however are but poor Advantages, and were it not for the Difficulties that must necessarily attend upon leaving a Trade to which Men are bred\*, and engaging in a Way of Life to which they are entire Strangers, it is much to be feared that few if any wou'd follow the Trade under it's present disadvantageous Circumstances. But amongst the Multitude of Bakers who bake from four to ten Quarters *per* Week, the Struggle for a Livelihood is extremely painful, and the Consequence is, that there is a miserable Succession of them in the different Bakeries in this City, many of them ruined and reduced to the deepest Distresses of Life, whilst they are succeeded by other unhappy Adventurers that often follow them. It is needless to say more to evince, that the before-mentioned great Majority of Bakers neither have nor can have the

\* Since the Year 1740 a great many People have set up the Baking Trade that were not bred to it, at a very considerable Expence, and followed it for some time without any Profit or Advantage, and all those People have left it off, except one, and it is remarkable that two Thirds of those who are put Apprentice to the Baking Trade do never follow the same, but do either return to the Country, or seek a Livelihood abroad.

the Benefit of the *White* and *Wheaten* Trade, and as upon Enquiry the Truth of what I have set forth will fully appear, you will, I don't doubt, conclude that all the Gentleman has said to shew the profitableness of the *White* and *Wheaten* Trade doth not affect the Case of the Bakers of this City and the Liberties adjacent \*.

The next of the Gentleman's Considerations which I shall observe to you upon, is what he says concerning the *Household* Bread Trade. The Principle on which the Table of Assize is made is this, viz. That a Quarter of Wheat shall make thirty nine Stone ten Pound of *Household* Bread, in this we agree; But the Gentleman endeavours to prove, that a Quarter or forty Stone of Wheat will make the aforesaid Quantity of thirty-nine Stone ten Pound of *Household* Bread, with the Help of the Bran, and something over, by which the Baker has some Advantage over and above his Allowance of nine Shillings per Quarter †.

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\* That all the middling People in this City consume no other than *Household* Bread is a Fact so well known, and in itself so evident, that it wou'd be unnecessary to enter into any Proof it, and that altho' Persons of Distinction, Rank, and affluent Fortunes, use White or Wheaten Bread at their own Tables, yet their Servants and Attendants, who are by much the largest Part of the Families of the Great, use *Household* Bread only, is a Truth that I believe will not be denied, from whence it may easily be concluded how very inconsiderable the Consumption of White and Wheaten must be in Proportion to that of *Household* Bread.

† This is in Opposition to the Baker who set forth in the



The Foundation on which he grounds his Argument is an Account of a Tryal of a Quarter of Wheat in his Appendix, made at the Work-House in *March* 1732, and is contained in the Copy of a Letter said to be addressed to the late Alderman *French*, when Lord Mayor, from a Person whose Name is omitted; such sort of Evidence one wou'd think wou'd have but little Weight, but it must be supposed that our Author is a Gentleman of great Reputation and Station, for his Pamphlet was read and much depended on by many of the Honourable Gentlemen of the House of Commons last Sessions of Parliament. I hope, however, to convince you that this Tryal was a partial one, and by no means worthy the Illustration that the Gentleman has so ingeniously given it; and in order to this it is necessary to make two or three Observations, first on the different Value of Wheat in our Markets, which is from two Shillings and six Pence under, to two Shillings and six Pence over, the middle Price; the best Quarter of Wheat will make the best and most Bread, the worst will make the worst and least Bread. Again, please to observe, that Wheat is not always bought for the exact Price it is worth, for some People are more flexible and easier to deal with than others, and all Men do not equally

the State of their Case, that a Quarter of Wheat of the Middle Price will, with the Help of the Bran, make no more than thirty-seven Stone three Pound, by which they suffer the Loss of the Value of two Stone seven Pounds of Bread.



qually know what Turn the Market will take ; some Bakers want Corn, and must buy on that very Day, and lest they should lose their Market, do the more easily submit to the Demand of the Farmer ; thus it comes to pass that one Man shall buy for less than the middle Price, Corn that is worth more than the middle Price, and this we call a good Bargain, whilst other Bakers suffer by the Alternative. Please once more to observe, that the Bakers do not say that a Quarter or forty Stone of Wheat will not make the Quantity of Bread, &c. supposed to be it's Produce by the Table of Assize ; but what they say is, that a Quarter or forty Stone of Wheat of the middle Price will not make it. Now the Way to be sure that you have Wheat of the middle Price, is by collecting an equal Quantity out of all the different Parcels in the Market that are exposed to Sale : Take a Quarter of Wheat thus collected, let it be ground, and the Miller have his Toll out of it, then dress the Meal, that is to say, separate the Bran, then put to it its due of Barm, Salt and Water, make it into Dough, and bake it into Bread, then weigh the Bread to find how much it has made, and measure to find the Quantity and Value of the Bran. Thus, and thus only, you can have an impartial Tryal, and by which it may be faithfully determined what is due to the Publick and to the Baker.

Throughout

Throughout the whole process of this Tryal in our Author's Appendix, there are many Marks by which one conversant in these matters can see great Partiality; one of these can be made evident to Gentlemen: There is not any way by which the goodness of Wheat can be so truly ascertained as by the Weight of it. In Page 23 of our Author we have happily the Weight of the Wheat *per* Barrel, strick Measure, which is 17 Stone 9 Pound and  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; now although the Wheat of this Year is the best and grossest we have had for many Years, it may I believe be found by Experiment that our middle priced Wheat will fall very short of that Weight.

If the foregoing Observation be true, which I think is very clear, it plainly follows, that the Tryal in Question was, as I proposed to prove it, a partial one, because (see page 25 in the *Appendix* to the *Considerations*) the Wheat was not collected out of the different Parcels in the Market, but it was bought 2 Barrel at 31 Shillings, and one Barrel at 15 Shillings. That the Loaves in this Tryal did not weigh the same Weight or agree with one another, is no extraordinary Thing, for it is so in every Batch of Bread that has or ever will be baked; and that his Bread was so burnt and altogether under the Weight he intended, is owing to this, that he, out of eagerness to make more Bread than the Quantity of Meal would afford, overcharged it with Water, by which his

his Dough went so weak into the Oven that the Heat pierced it immediately, and instead of baking he burnt the Bread; that his Oven was not too hot is evident by the small Quantity of Furs he used, all which may fully appear by Experiment. I shall take my leave of this Tryal with one Observation to you, that the *Household* Bread must have been exceeding coarse such as could not be sold in this City, for no Baker here ever thought of making 3 forts out of one Quarter of Wheat.

As to what the Gentleman says (see *Considerations* page 11 in the Notes) with Regard to the Flour, the great Profit and Advantage it is to the Baker, all is founded upon the Supposition, that it is made into White and Wheaten Bread; but if what I have above said to you on that Article be true, that is to say, if there be but 14 Bakers in Town that are on that Trade, and the Remainder being 116 in Number have little or nothing to say to it, then all the Gentleman has said amounts to nothing; that is to say, it doth not at all affect the Case of the Bakers.

But it may be asked, what becomes of all the Flour that is bought by Bakers? why it is, to a very little, and must be expended in making *Household* Bread, and this will be further evident by this Observation, that Flour is never bought in great Quantities, but when 3 Hundred



dred and a half can be had for about the middle Price of Wheat; and this may be proved by the Merchants Account of Sales compared with the middle Price of Wheat, which is published Weekly by the *Lord-Mayor*. Now the Bakers always acknowledged 3 Hundred and a half of Flour to be equal to a Quarter of middle priced Wheat, but our Author insists upon it, that 3 Hundred of 1st and 2d Flour is equal, or more than equal to a Quarter of Wheat; I have heard it laid down as an established Truth, that the Whole is equal to its Parts, but I never heard it asserted before, but on the Subject, that a Part was equal to the Whole; you will permit me to be particular about this, because it has been much insisted upon.

	C.	qrs.	lb.
A Quarter of Wheat contains	5	0	0
The Miller takes for his Toll			
and Waste for Grinding it	0	1	6
into Meal			

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So the Baker receives from the			
Mill in whole Meal	4	2	22

Now, according to our Au-			
thor's Method, we will dress			
it and take out of 1st and 2d	3	0	0
Flour.			

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Then



C. qrs. lbs

Then there remains to the	}	1	2	22
good of our Quarter of				
Wheat				
All to the Waste in Bolting	}	0	0	4
which may be about				

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And after all there remains	1	2	18
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Now, how can the Baker have the same Profit from three Hundred of Flour, as he can from a Quarter of Wheat when he manifestly would lose by it 1 C. 2 qrs. 18 lb. of his Quarter of Wheat? But to make the Bakers loss by it still more evident, let us proceed, and make this 3 Hundred of Flour into Bread, to see how much it will make, and in this we will proceed according to Mr. *Pearson's* Directions \* in our Author's *Appendix*.

St. lb. oz.

Our 3 Hundred of Flour is	}	24	0	0
It takes to wet it 7 lb. of Barm,				
Salt and Water to every				
Stone of Flour, which is in all				

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	36	0	0
--	----	---	---

We must allow for baking it	}	3	12	0
1 lb. 8 oz. to each Stone,				
which is in all for Baking				

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And then you have in Bread but	32	2	0
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Now

\* It will be found, however, that altho' good Flour may take so much wetting, that our Flour made of middle priced Wheat will not bear near the Quantity.

Now the Table of Affize, supposes that a Quarter, or 40 Stone of Wheat will make 39 Stone 10 lb. of Bread, and it is evident by the above Operation that 3 Hundred of Flour will make but 32 Stone 2 lb. of Bread, so that it comes short 7 Stone 8 lb. of Bread, the Value of which the Bakers would lose by every 3 Hundred of Flour, if to be used in the place and stead of a Quarter of Wheat. You will please to remember that we have left behind us 1 C. 2 qrs. 18 lb. of our Quarter of Wheat, now if we had dressed this over again, we would have got out of it 2 Quarters of 3d Flour, this mixed with the 3 Hundred of 1st and 2d, would make the Quantity, that is to say, 3 Hundred and a half, which the Bakers do acknowledge to be equal to a Quarter of middle price Wheat; and if we proceed to make this Quantity into Bread according to the foregoing Operation, it will make 37 Stone 7 lb. of Bread; now please to cast your Eye upon the *State* of the *Case* of the *Bakers*, and you will find there is but 4 lb. difference between what the Bakers set forth to be the Produce of a middle price Quarter of Wheat in Bread and Bran, and this Produce in Bread of 3 Hundred and a half of Flour. This makes it evident, and establishes this Truth, that no less than 3 Hundred and a half of Flour is equal in Value to a Quarter of middle price Wheat.

But

But this Affair has been considered by Gentlemen, as a National Concern, it has been thought, that the Discouraging the Importation of Flour, may be an Advantage to the Country, how that may be, is a Question that I will not presume to enter upon, Considerations of a National kind, being proper for those in a higher Sphere; but as a *Citizen*, you will give me leave to say somewhat. In a Note, Page 10, our Author says, ' That Meal of Wheat is not charged by the Act of Excise, but is liable to 6 *d.* a Hundred under the Act of Customs, but that Flour of Meal of Wheat is charged not only with 6 *d.* a Hundred Custom, but with 6 *d.* Excise;' now all our Imported Flour from *England* is entered at the *Custom-House*, so as to save the 6 *d.* *per* Hundred Excise; and I will tell you how it came to be so. A good while since, in a bad Year, when Bread was likely to be scarce, and Wheat cou'd not be imported upon such Reasonable Terms as Flour, this was permitted, in order to encourage the Importation of Flour, and it has continued so ever since, and for very good Reason, for if our own Country People will not Plow and Sow for us, shall we give a Monopoly of the Bread of this great and populous City against the Millers of *England*, who are the most powerful Dealers in Corn perhaps in the



the World, and whose Situation is so providentially adapted to supply us. I have seen this City, within these two Years upon the Brink of a Famine; our late worthy Lord Mayor can, I believe, witness for the last time; and throughout the whole Summer we have been in so precarious a way, that all our Importation of Flour and Wheat from *England* would have been insufficient, had it not been for the plentiful Supplies that were brought in from the *Baltick*. A City situated like this, in a Corner of the Country, remote as it were from its own Lands, crowded with Inhabitants, and continually increasing in its Bulk and Magnitude, ought, one would think, to keep every Way open for Supplies of daily Bread: But if the Gentleman's Scheme should take Effect, that is, if no more than *Three Hundred of Flour* is to be allowed the Baker as equal in Value to a Quarter of Wheat, it will certainly prevent the Baker from buying it, and will in effect amount to a Prohibition either of importing it from *England* or making it in this Kingdom, unless it be in such Quantities as may be necessary for Pastry Cooks and Housewifery, and then I fear it will be found a very difficult Matter to supply this populous City with Bread.

Notwithstanding all the Gentleman is pleased to say in his Additions to his *Considerations*, concerning the Table of Affize, it could be made



made fully to appear, that it is a Calculation from a Principle, *not a Table* laid down and established by the Statute *Affiza Panis*, the 51 Hen. III. and indeed if you will carefully observe those Additions of our Author, and compare them with what he says about our present Table of Affize, in Page 5. of his *Considerations*, you may perceive that there is nothing in them but *Assertions*, and much *Inconsistency*. But what will put the Original of our Table out of all question, is this, that Alderman *Blackball* himself tells you, in the Title Page of his Book of Rules for affizing Bread, that “ they “ are calculated according to the Statute *Affiza “ Panis*, 51 Hen. III. now in Force in *Ireland*.” And in the said Book he shews the manner of making the Calculation.

As to the Account the Gentleman gives of the Bakers as a Corporate Political Body, it is not of any Consequence to my Purpose; I shall only observe to you, that every Baker, not free, did always in the Memory of every one living, and does to this Day, pay Quarterage to the Corporation. The Gentleman in Page 5. takes Notice, that from the Time that Alderman *George Blackball* made the present Table of Affize with the Allowance of 6s. per Quarter †, till the Year 1729 or 1730, the Ba-  

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kers

† The Table of Affize is not confined to six Shillings Allowance, but is adapted to any Allowance the Legislature is pleased to give.

kers made no Application during that Period for an Addition to their Allowance; and indeed they had no Occasion, they had very good Reason to be satisfied with it; for the Bakers were not, during that Period, obliged to buy their Wheat by the Statute Measure, but either by the heaped Barrel or as the Wheat was brought to Town in Sacks; that is to say, they agreed with the Country People for what was contained in a Sack, as a Barrel of Wheat, and, according to the Custom in the different Parts of the Country from whence the Corn came, they bought for and as a Barrel of Wheat from 19 Stone, which was the smallest Quantity, to 24 Stone, considering in the Bargain not only the Quality of the Grain, but also the Quantity and Weight of it, so that at a Medium a Barrel of Wheat weighed 21 Stone and an half; and thus it came to pass that the middle Price of Wheat was formed upon a Quantity or Quarter of Wheat weighing 43 Stones: Now 43 Stones will make in *Household Bread* and Bran the Quantity that the Table of Affize supposes it to make, by which Means the Baker had the full Allowance which the Law intended he should have, which was, according to our Author, 6*s. per Quarter* ||; and considering

|| Notwithstanding that he is so very certain in this Matter, the Bakers do say they had 7*s. per Quarter*, that is to say, 8*s.* in Winter and 6*s.* in Summer, and I can produce the Orders of Affize made by the several Lord Mayors in the Years 1726, 1727, 1728, and 1729 to prove it.

ing that *Dublin* was then perhaps the cheapest City in *Europe* to live in, the Bakers had very good Cause to be pleased with their Allowance, and accordingly they exercised their Trade to the Contentment of the People, and the careful and industrious Baker found a reasonable Account in it for themselves and their Families. Alderman *Burrowes* was the first that attempted to enforce the Statute Barrel, and this was the Beginning of the Bakers Distress; but when Alderman *Humphry French* came to the Mayoralty, in the Year 1732, he made thorough Work with them, and confin'd them to buy their Wheat by the struck Barrel, by which they lost 9 Stone *per* Quarter of their old accustomed Measure, and then the middle Price of Wheat came to be formed upon a Quantity or Quarter of Wheat weighing about *thirty four Stone*, and thirty four Stone will fall vastly short of making the Quantity of *Household Bread and Bran*, which the Table of Assize supposes to be the Produce of a Quarter of middle Price Wheat. This put the Bakers into such ruinous Circumstances that they applied to Parliament, and prayed for a new Table of Assize, which was calculated on the Produce of a Quarter, or 40 Stone of *Irish* Wheat; but not knowing the Principle upon which the Statute Table was struck, and for that Reason not being able to make out a clear and distinct State of their

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Case,



Cafe, and being opposed at the same time by Alderman *French*, who was a Gentleman in great Credit and Esteem, and thought to be very knowing in those Matters, they did not obtain it; but the Legislature continued the same Table of Assize, and fixed the Barrel of Wheat at Twenty Stone, and gave them One Shilling *per* Quarter, additional Allowance, as was supposed and intended. Hence the middle Price of Wheat came to be formed upon a Quantity or Quarter of Wheat weighing 40 Stone, which was 3 Stone short of their old accusom'd Measure. The supposed additional Shilling abovementioned being but a poor Recompence in the place of the three Stone of Wheat, this put them into such distressed Circumstances, that they have been ever since complaining often to the Lord Mayor and Board of Aldermen; at length, in the Year 1745, the Legislature was pleased to give them another supposed and intended additional Shilling Allowance, which was 9s. *per* Quarter by the Table, but by Experience they found but very little Relief by this Allowance. All this time they did not know the Principle on which the Table of Assize was struck, and therefore could not clearly explain the Cause of their Grievances: But by the following Estimate it will appear, these intended Shillings, and indeed every Shilling said to be allowed to the Baker, will amount to no more than about



8*d.* somewhat more or less according to the high or low Price of Corn.

	St.	lb.
The Table of Assize supposes that a Quarter of Wheat will make of Household Bread —	39	10
The Bakers proposed to prove, that a Quarter of Wheat of the middle Price will make no more, including the Value of the Bran, than	37	3
So that the Baker is deficient of the Quantity of Bread he ought to have — — —	2	7

It may not however be quite so much this particular Year, as the Wheat is so good.

Now, for the sake of even Quantities, suppose Bread to be 12 Pounds for a Shilling, or, which is the same Thing, one Penny a Pound, then the above Deficiency of 2 Stone 7 Pound is worth 2*s.* 11*d.* which subtract from the 9*s.* Allowance, and you will find it to be but 6*s.* 1*d.* now divide this by 9, the Number of Shillings, and it will give you 8*d.* and a Fraction; by which it plainly follows, that what is said to be one Shilling Allowance to the Baker, is no more than 8*d.* and a Fraction. Add to this, that our Corn for these six Years past has been extremely bad on account of the wet Seasons, and particularly the last Year, and

from the excessive Rise on every Necessary for the Support of a Family, and the dearneſs of Furze, it is no Wonder then that ſo many Bakers have failed, and others quitted the Trade, and that the Remainder have ever ſince been complaining and uneaſy in the Exerciſe of it.

It may be worth obſerving to you, that in the Narrative the Gentleman gives of the Bakers, and their ſeveral Applications to the Government, before any Act was made in *Ireland* to regulate their Trade, that when they applied to them for Redreſs they always obtained it; but in a ſhort time after the Advantage was again taken from them by the Magiſtrates of the City; and ſince the Legislature have taken Notice of our Affairs, they have permitted the Lord Mayor and Aldermen to augment our Allowance, but they will not on any account do it, be the Diſtreſs or Neceſſity of the Baker ever ſo apparent; but I ſhall not take upon me to give Reaſons for their Conduct towards us.

The Gentleman's *Conſiderations* on the Advantage the Bakers may make by *fraudulent and ſecret Truſts between them and the Meal-Men*, ſhews that he has taken but little Pains to be informed about the Manner of keeping the Aſſize: The Corn is all entered in the Preſence of the Lord Mayor with punctual Exaſtneſs; the Meal-Men appear themſelves,  
and

and enter all their Corn upon Oath, and then they get a Ticket to take it out of the Market: The Bakers enter none, but the Corn which they buy is entered by the Farmer or Merchant, and if the Lord Mayor suspects any unfair Dealings, he swears them to the Truth of the Return. Our late Lord Mayor, Sir *Charles Burton*, did by Proclamation order the Bakers to make Returns of the foreign Corn which they bought, but it was immediately found to be needless, as he could very safely depend on the Veracity of the Merchants, who are Men of Probity and Opulence, so he dropp'd it: In the same Proclamation he gave large Encouragement to discover if any Corn was privately delivered to Bakers, but there was not one Information made; indeed all Dealers in Wheat are well apprized, that they are subject to the Penalty of *5s. per Barrel* for not entering Corn, or for not bringing the Country Corn into the Market: Now how can it be supposed that the Baker, though he was ever so much inclined to have it so, could prevail on a Merchant or Farmer to run the Risque of so severe and scandalous a Penalty; or if there was really any thing of this Sort doing, how could the Multitude of City Constables be more profitably employed than in making Informations; the Avenues of the City are not so many but they may easily be watched, and a Cargo of Wheat cannot be stolen into the City. Upon the whole, I do not



think what the Gentleman says upon this Subject is fair; for he should not insinuate what he cannot prove; and if the Laws are ineffectual to prevent these or any other Kind of Frauds, the Legislature may amend them; let it be put in the Bakers Power to live by honest Labour and Industry, and let them suffer if they use any other Means.

By a Calculation the Gentleman makes, (Page 17.) he concludes, that *the Bakers have an annual Profit of 33150l.* but if the Principles or Foundation from which he draws his Conclusions be wrong, this and all other his Conclusions must be so too.

But the Gentleman has made a great Oversight even in this Matter, for he has forgot to take out the Bakers Expences, which must be as surely paid for as the Corn of which the Bread is made, and will amount to 24000l. and upwards of the Money. Whether this be really an Oversight, or whether he left it so on purpose, to surprize his Reader with so large a Sum, I will not take upon me to determine; but Furze, Barm, Salt, Mens Wages, Shops, and Bake-houses, cannot be had in this City without Money.

He takes Notice in the same Place, that the Poor are chiefly to bear the Burthen of the large Advantages that he supposes the Bakers have

have by their Trade. This looks as if the Gentleman seldom visited those Parts of the Town where the Poor inhabit, and that he does not know the Use of this Set of Dealers which he so often mentions, I mean the Meal-Men; for it is with them, and not with the Bakers, that the Poor deal: By the Meal-Men they are supplied with Wheaten, Bear, Barley, Peas, and Oatmeal, of which they make their own Bread, and bake it at the common Ovens, or on Grid-dles; and when Potatoes are cheap, the Meal-Men have but little Trade, for our Poor mostly live upon them.

There are many other *Considerations* of the Gentleman which I would gladly take Notice of, but this Letter is already come to such a Length, and the Subject being no way entertaining, that I am afraid I have trespassed too much on your Patience; but I hope I have made it evident to you, that if the Bakers make it appear that there are but fourteen Bakers in this City that make White and Wheaten Bread, and that the remaining Number, being one hundred and sixteen, do make but a Trifle in that way, that then all our Author has said of the great Profit and Advantage of that Trade is nothing to the Bakers of *Dublin*, it doth not effect their Case.

That

That all the Gentleman says concerning the great Profit on the *Houſhold* Bread, Trade being founded on a partial Tryal, concludes nothing againſt the Caſe of the Bakers.

That three Hundred of Flower being but a Part of a Quarter of Wheat, cannot be equal to it.

That if no more was to be allowed to the Baker than three Hundred of Flour as equal to a Quarter of Wheat, it would amount to a Prohibition either of importing it from abroad or making it at home.

That ſuch a Prohibition would expoſe this City to the Calamity of a Famine, by giving a Monopoly of it's Bread againſt the Millers of *England*, who are the greateſt Dealers in Corn in the World, and who are ſo providentially ſituated for our Relief.

That our Table of Affize is a Calculation made by Alderman *George Blackball*, who was Lord Mayor in the Year 1694, on the Ordinance in the Statute *Aſ. Pan, the 51 Hen. 3.*

That from the ſaid Alderman *Blackball's* Time to the Year 1728, the Bakers were contented in the Exercife of their Trade, they having upon an Avarage 43 Stone as a Quarter of Wheat, which will make the Quantity  
of



of Bread that the Table of Affize supposes that a Quarter of Wheat will produce.

That notwithstanding their Allowance was then but 6 or 7 s. a Quarter, as they really got so much, they had good Reason for their Contentment, Provisions and all things necessary to the Support of a Family being to be had on very reasonable Terms.

That in the Year 1728 Alderman *Burroughs* began to distress the Bakers, by endeavouring to enforce the Act to buy Wheat by the Struck Barrel.

That in the Year 1732, Alderman *French* did compleat the Distress of the Bakers, by strictly confining them to the Strick Barrel, by which they lost 9 Stone of their old accustomed Measure.

That the Legislature did upon this fix the Quarter of Wheat at 40 Stone, and gave the Bakers a nominal 8 s. Allowance per Quarter.

That by this Act they lost 3 Stone per Quarter of their old accustomed Measure.

That in Consequence of this they have been ever since complaining, and altho' the Legislature did in the Year 1745 give them 9 s. nominal Allowance, they are but little the better

ter of it, as every Shilling said to be given to the Baker is but 8 d. somewhat more or less, according to the high or low Price of Wheat.

That it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the Baker to make any Advantage by an unfair Connection with the Meal Men, Merchants, or Farmers.

That our Author has made a very erroneous Calculation of the annual Profit of the Bakers, supposing that they had really, and not nominally the intended Allowance.

That he has occasionally forgot the Use of the Meal Men, whom he often mentions, and that they, and not the Bakers, are the People who supply the Poor with Bread.

Upon the Whole, the Bakers desire no other than to have a reasonable Allowance fixed and determined on the true Produce of a Quarter of *middle priced* Wheat, made up by a Collection of all the different Parcels in the Market, and they are ready and willing to give all Assistance in making a Tryal, and such Bakers as may be thought fit to attend such Tryal, are willing to be put under the most solemn Engagements to see that Justice be done. There are besides many Men of good Reputation in this City who formerly exercised our Trade, but not finding their  
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Account in the same, have left it off, and now having no Interest in it themselves, it is humbly proposed that some of them are well qualified to attend with any Gentlemen that may be appointed to make a Tryal, and to see that Justice be done between the Publick and the Bakers. It is certain that the Publick will have a great Advantage in making a Tryal this Season, as the Wheat is much better and more productive of Flower now than it has been for many Years past. Indeed the Bakers do deserve to be considered with some Tenderness on account of their Sufferings the last Year, for it is manifest that the Grain was so weak and shrivelled that it afforded but a very poor Yield of Flower, and I am certain that there is not a Baker in Town but who finds himself in much worse Circumstances for his Year's Work.

For a Character of the Generality of the Bakers I would presume to refer to our late Chief Magistrate Sir *Charles Burton*, as he is a Gentleman fully acquainted with our Conduct. He entered into his Office determined to find out and punish those Frauds that we are suspected to be guilty of; for he appointed a large Market Jury and offered extraordinary Rewards to any who would detect us, and was himself extremely vigilant and active, daily visiting our Shops, and closely attending the Markets, and yet he did not in any one Instance



stance discover unfair Practices in the buying and entering of Wheat; it is true, he got sometimes light and bad Bread, perhaps among a few abandoned Tradesmen, who neither have, nor know the Worth of a Character, and are insensible of the Pleasure, which a fair and honest Tradesman finds, in making good and lawful Goods. But I am perswaded from his strict Regard to Truth and Justice, he will say of us, that we deal fairly in the Markets, and that we supply the City with good Bread, and just Weight.

I have above hinted, that this City was in danger of suffering the greatest Distress for want of Bread, his late Lordship became timely apprehensive of this, and *at length* found it necessary to consult with the Bakers, about Measures to be entered upon to encourage an importation of Corn, without raising it to an immoderate Price; he is sensible that the Bakers submitted to, and concurred with him in every Scheme, sometimes carefully concealing, and at other times exposing to the Merchants the scantiness of the Stocks of Meal and Corn on our Hands, by which means we kept our Prices at an even Rate, never exceeding 24 Shillings, nor lower than 22; and thus the Merchants were encouraged in the Trade, and the Publick plentifully supplied, on very reasonable Terms, considering what might have been the Case, if a Clamour was raised,

raised, and our Distress fully known. I am ashamed to have detained you with so long a Letter, but the Circumstances are so many that I could not avoid it; and indeed I have omitted some Arguments of great weight, to shew the Expediency, even to the City and Nation, of granting us Relief. But from what has been said, I would with great Submission hope for your Protection and Support, whilst the Truth of the foregoing Observations and Facts may be the Subject of the Consideration of the Honourable House of Commons.

I am, SIR,

Dublin,  
Nov. 13th.  
1753.

*Your most humble Servant,*

A BAKER.

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### P O S T S C R I P T.

SINCE this Letter was sent to the Press, much has been said by some Gentlemen of the Board of Aldermen concerning four Tryals that were made by Alderman *Daniel Cooke*, when he was Lord Mayor, and one by Sir *George Ribton*, Knight, during his Mayoralty. I am persuaded, from your known Regard to Justice, that you will not be influenced by any Assertions concerning

ing these Tryals: But if these Gentlemen will please to publish them, or put Copies of them into the Hands of the Master of the Bakers for that Purpose, it will then be made appear how far they millitate against, or on the contrary how far they may concur in supporting the Case of the Bakers. Indeed the publishing of these will make it further evident, that the Tryal which is the Subject of the foregoing Sheets, was not an impartial one, because neither of these Gentlemen made near the Quantity of Bread on *middle priced* Wheat as was made in that Tryal, and fell short of it with a better Sort than the *middle priced*.

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**F I N I S.**

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